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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/721,202

11/25/2003

Kun-Ming Hung

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5517

7590

07/01/2004

Kenneth C. Brooks
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EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	<p>Application No.</p> <p>10/721,202</p>	<p>Applicant(s)</p> <p>HUNG ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner</p> <p>Tho D. Ta</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p>2833</p>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Fig. 29 of US 6,544,074</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bricaud et al. (6,544,074).

In regard to claim 1, Bricaud discloses an electrical connector 500 (fig. 25) comprising: a dielectric housing having a bottom wall (see attached drawing) that has opposite lateral sides (see attached drawing), opposite lateral walls 116i, 116s, each of which extends uprightly from a respective one of the lateral sides of the bottom wall 58i and has an upper wall portion (see attached drawing) and a lower wall portion (see attached drawing), and a partition wall (see attached drawing) parallel to and disposed above the bottom wall, the partition wall extending between the lateral walls 116i, 116s and having opposite lateral ends (see attached drawing), each of which is connected to a junction of the upper and lower wall portions of a respective one of the lateral walls 116i, 116s, the partition wall cooperating with the lower wall portions of the lateral walls and the bottom wall so as to confine a first card receiving space 58i, the dielectric housing further having a front open side for access into the first card receiving space,

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and a rear side 86; a cover plate 54G mounted on the lateral walls 116i, 116s and disposed above the partition wall of the dielectric housing such that the cover plate 54G cooperates with the upper wall portions of the lateral walls and the partition wall so as to confine a second card receiving space 58s; a set of first conductive terminals 100, 100' disposed on the bottom wall of the dielectric housing, each of the first conductive terminals 100, 100' having a first coupling end portion 104i, 104'i extending outwardly of the front open side of the dielectric housing (see figure 34), and a first contacting end portion 102s, 102's opposite to the first coupling end portion 104i, 104'i and projecting into the first card receiving space 58i; and a set of second conductive terminals 100, 100' disposed on the partition wall of the dielectric housing, each of the second conductive terminals having a second coupling end portion 104i, 104'i extending outwardly of the rear side 86 of the dielectric housing (see figures 25 and 36), and a second contacting end portion 102s, 102's opposite to the second coupling end portion and projecting into the second card receiving space 58s.

In regard to claim 2, Bricaud discloses that the bottom wall of the dielectric housing is formed with a plurality of terminal mounting grooves (see fig. 34), each of the first conductive terminals 100, 100' being mounted in a corresponding one of the terminal mounting grooves.

In regard to claim 3, Bricaud discloses the partition wall of the dielectric housing

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is formed with a plurality of terminal mounting grooves, each of the second conductive terminals 100, 100' being mounted in a corresponding one of the terminal mounting grooves (see attached fig. 29).

In regard to claim 5, Bricaud discloses that the first coupling end portions 104i, 104'i of the first conductive terminals 100, 100' extend outwardly of the front open side of the dielectric housing, the dielectric housing further having a rear wall 57s (see figures 36 and 37) disposed at the rear side 86 and formed with a plurality of mounting holes that respectively permit extension of the second coupling end portions 104i, 104'i of the second conductive terminals 100, 100' outwardly of the rear side of the dielectric housing.

In regard to claim 6, Bricaud discloses that each of the cover plate 54G, the partition wall and the bottom wall has a front end formed with a notch.

In regard to claim 7, Bricaud discloses that the first coupling end portions 104i, 104'i of the first conductive terminals 100, 100' extend outwardly of the front open side of the dielectric housing and through the notch in the bottom wall (see figures 29 and 34).

In regard to claim 8, Bricaud discloses that the cover plate 54G is formed with a pair of downwardly extending lateral flanges 120G, 122G that flank the lateral walls of the dielectric housing.

In regard to claim 9, Bricaud discloses that each of the lateral flanges 120G, 122G of the cover plate 54G is formed with a set of first engaging members 126, each of the lateral walls of the dielectric housing being formed with a set of second engaging members corresponding to the first engaging members 126 on the lateral flanges 120G, 122G of the cover plate 54G, the second engaging members on the lateral walls of the dielectric housing engaging respectively and releasably the first engaging members 126 on the lateral flanges 120G, 122G of the cover plate 54G (column 5, lines 20-25).

In regard to claim 11, Bricaud discloses that the cover plate 54G is made of metal, and each of the lateral flanges 120G, 122G is formed with a grounding contact portion 132, 134 (fig. 38, column 5, lines 25-34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bricaud et al.

Bricaud et al. does not disclose that the first engaging members are holes, and the second engaging members are projections.

It would have been obvious to modify Bricaud et al. invention by having the first engaging members are holes, and the second engaging members are projections, since applicants have not disclosed that having the engaging members with these specific configurations solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the connector would perform equally well with either configurations.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 4, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the first coupling end portions of the first conductive terminals and the second coupling end portions of the second conductive terminals both extend through the mounting holes of the rear wall; and in combination with other limitations in claim 1. In regard to claim 12, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the cover plate is formed with a plurality of resilient clamping pieces that project into the second card receiving space; and in combination with other limitations in claim 1. In regard to claim 13, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the first and second card receiving spaces have different

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widths so as to be adapted to accommodate different sizes of electronic cards therein;
and in combination with other limitations in claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
06/30/04